



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 7, 2002

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-2107

Dear Representative Markey:

Thank you for your letter regarding implementation of the 1994 Agreed Framework with North Korea.

As you know, the Agreed Framework was intended as a mechanism to end North Korea's nuclear weapons program and to bring that country into compliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). My Administration remains committed to these goals.

North Korea remains out of compliance with the NPT. In 1992, before the Agreed Framework was finalized, North Korea submitted a false declaration to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and sought to conceal significant nuclear activities. Although North Korea is complying with the Agreed Framework's freeze on declared facilities, it still refuses to permit the IAEA to take the steps necessary to implement full-scope safeguards, as required under the NPT.

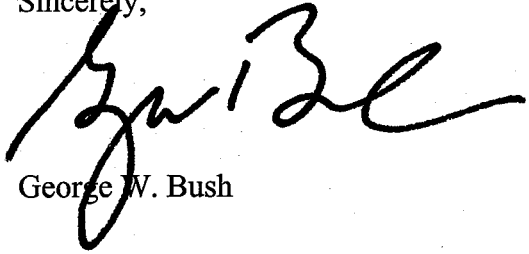
Under the terms of the 1994 Agreed Framework, "when a significant portion of the light water reactor project is completed, but before delivery of key nuclear components," North Korea must come into compliance with its safeguards agreement with the IAEA, including accounting for its past nuclear activities. Rest assured that my Administration will not agree to provide critical components for light water reactors until North Korea comes into full compliance with the NPT and its associated IAEA safeguards agreement.

North Korea remains one of the world's most dangerous regimes and continues to pursue weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles, while its people starve. The Agreed Framework is one element of a broader approach aimed at addressing the threat we face from North Korea and encouraging progress toward peace and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula. Yet, it is not the only element of this approach.

We are working with our allies to chart a step-by-step course that, if implemented by North Korea, would lead to more normal relations and a reduced threat. We encourage the North Korean Government to accept our offer of dialogue. This is the path we hope the North will follow, but we and our allies will be prepared if they choose another path. As I said in my State

of the Union Address, I will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GWB", with a stylized, flowing script.

George W. Bush